

HANDSOME CHURCHES BUILT EL PASO DURING THE YEAR 1915

New Church Edifices Are Large, Modern, Costly Structures; El Paso Is Made Catholic Diocese and Is Home of Bishop Schuler; City Has Many Churches and Is Adding to Number as Population Grows.

WITHIN the next few weeks the First Methodist Episcopal church edifice, a handsome stone building, located at the corner of Montana and Lee streets, will be completed at a cost of a little over \$50,000. It already is being used by the congregation regularly.

Completed, the new structure will be one of the most imposing of the city's numerous churches. The main auditorium is large enough to seat 1200 people. In the basement is a large Sunday school room, which may also be used for a banquet hall and will seat 400 people. The primary room, also commodious, serves as a meeting place for the Epworth league and for the holding of socials. A completely equipped kitchen has also been provided in the basement.

The church building was started in 1914 and before the end of the year it was being used for worship and as a meeting place for socials and various meetings.

New Synagogue to Be Built.

Ground will be broken before many weeks for the \$50,000 synagogue of Mt. Sinai congregation, to be located on the northeast corner of North Oregon and Montana streets, one block above the present synagogue. During the latter part of 1915 the congregation made arrangements for financing the structure, and plans are now being completed preparatory to the actual starting of construction work.

The building will be two stories in height, with a full basement, and will have a frontage of 75 feet on Oregon street and extend back 120 feet to the alley of the block. The entrance will be on the Oregon street side and stairways on either side will lead to the entrances to the main auditorium, which will have an elevation of six feet at the west end and slope down to the ground level at the east end. Stairways on either side will also lead to a balcony over the lobby. Back of the pulpit on the east end will be a smaller auditorium for social meetings. Over this auditorium will be class rooms. The organ loft will be located above and back of the pulpit. In the basement will be a gymnasium, billiard room and play rooms for children. The basement will also contain the heating plant. The plans for the synagogue were drawn by T. J. & T. J.

New Church on Montana and Hayner.

One of the church structures erected during 1915 was that of the Church of Christ at the corner of Montana and Hayner streets, in East El Paso. The structure is a departure from any style of architecture thus far adopted for any church edifice in this section of the country, and is the creation of Bulger & Sons, of Dallas, who donated the plans to the local congregation.

The floor space is 47,241 feet. The first floor is constructed of gray pressed brick. A second story, or superstructure, 32 feet square, supported by pillars, rises from the first floor, surrounded by a square roof. The walls of this portion of the building are pebble dashed. The auditorium is 32 feet square, and is adjoined on the north and south sides by class rooms 19x21 feet in dimensions, and on the east and west sides by similar rooms 7x22 feet. The rooms are so arranged that the partitions may be raised and the whole thrown into one room, giving a floor space to the auditorium practically the same as the outside dimensions of the auditorium is 275, which can be greatly increased by the use of the four class rooms.

The ceiling of the auditorium is supported by truss work. Windows on all four sides of the superstructure afford excellent light and ventilation. The building, which was constructed by J. W. Bedford, cost approximately \$5000.

New Mexican Church.

Another church structure built during the year is that of the Presbyterian Mexican church, located at Mills and Fourth streets, in the Mexican quarter. The building cost about \$4000. It is 22x45 feet in dimensions.

New Y. M. C. A. Building.

The Y. M. C. A., one of the leading religious institutions of the city, is planning the building during the present year of a 1-story addition to the present four-story building. The addition, which will cost between \$75,000 and \$100,000, will be located on the property lying immediately west of the present building. It will be built so as to form the south wing of an entirely new building that will eventually take the place of the present home. The new building will consist of two wings, with a court between, and completed will be one of the finest Y. M. C. A. buildings in the Southwest. The addition projected at the present time will provide space for the Boy Scouts, boys' den and lobby, while the rooms above the first floor will be fitted for sleeping quarters.

The Y. M. C. A., under the direction of H. E. Durkin, general secretary, is doing a large work among the young men of the city.

Church Edifices Modern.

Evidence that El Paso long ago passed through the frontier stage of her existence and has reached a more advanced stage of civilization is shown by the fact that there are now 50 church organizations. In the number and in the character of the church edifices, El Paso compares favorably with other communities of the country, and the church organizations exert a wonderful influence for good upon the community.

The religious organizations include the Baptists, Catholics, Christians, Christians, Congregational, Episcopal, Hebrew, Lutheran, Methodist Episcopal,

Presbyterian, Seventh Day Adventist, Church of the Nazarene, the Y. M. C. A., the Y. W. C. A., and Salvation Army.

Included in the Baptist organizations are: Calvary, Houston Square, 301 Montana street; East El Paso, 3313 Alameda avenue; First, 801 Magoffin avenue; Grandview, 2015 Myrtle street; Highland Park, corner of Dakota avenue and Gold street; Mexican, 101 South Stanton street. In addition there are three negro Baptist churches: Holy Sanctified, on Durango street; Shiloh Missionary, 2311 Magoffin avenue; and Second Baptist, 401 South Virginia street.

Catholics Largely Represented.

The Roman Catholic faith is represented by the following churches: Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, corner Campbell and Myrtle; Church of the Guardian Angel, 2025 Frutas street; Holy Family church, 705 North Oregon street; Sacred Heart, 512 South Oregon street; St. Ignatius, 1301 East Third street; St. Joseph's chapel, in connection with St. Joseph's academy, 700 North El Paso street; St. Joseph's at El Paso smelter.

The Christian churches include Austin Park, 3301 Montana street; and First Christian, 500 North Oregon street.

The First Church of Christ, Scientist, is located at 800 North Stanton street. The reading room is also maintained in the building.

The First Congregational church is located on Williams street near Montana street. The Mexican congregational church is at 605 South Kansas street.

The Church of St. Clement, Episcopal, is at the southeast corner of Montana and Campbell streets, and is a handsome gray stone structure.

The Hebrew churches are Temple Mt. Sinai congregation, which is building a handsome new synagogue, at Montana and Oregon streets; and Temple B'Nai Zion, which meets at 305 North Oregon street.

There are three Lutheran organizations—Evangelical Lutheran Zion, 1109 San Antonio street; St. Paul's Evangelical, 1200 Montana street; and Mexican Evangelical, 1001 South Campbell street.

Eleven Methodist Churches.

The Methodist Episcopal church is largely represented in the city, there being 11 organizations, of which eight are American and Mexican, and three negro. The American churches include: Alta Vista, 2316 Hueco street; East El Paso, 3502 River street; First, southeast corner of Montana and Oregon streets; Highland Park, southeast corner of Dakota avenue and Federal street; Trinity (South), 801 Mesa avenue; Orchard Park, Hadlock Place, near Dunne Blvd.; Mexican (south), 525 South Stanton street; Mexican (north), 3127 Olive street. The negro churches include: Myrtle avenue, 5025 Myrtle avenue; Phillips' Chapel, 301 Tornillo street; and Visitor chapel, 301 Taz street.

The Presbyterian organizations include: First Presbyterian church, corner Boulevard and Stanton street; Westminster, Florence and Rio Grande streets; East El Paso, northeast corner of Poplar street and Alameda avenue; Altura, 3600 Idaho street; and Mexican Mission, 1020 East Fourth street.

The Church of Christ church is located at 3001 Montana street. Church of the Nazarene, at 215 South Oregon street; Full Gospel Mission, at the homes of members, and Seventh Day Adventist, at 1113 Broadway.

Diocese of El Paso Created.

During 1915 the diocese of El Paso was created by act of Rome. Right Rev. A. J. Schuler, S. J. D. D., of Denver, was elevated to the office of bishop and placed in charge of the newly created diocese.

The presiding elder of the El Paso district of the Methodist church makes his headquarters in El Paso. The office is now held by Rev. H. M. Smith, of 1107 East Boulevard.

The Salvation army maintains quite a large organization in El Paso, headquarters being at 214 South Oregon, with Adlt. Guy Case in charge. The hall is maintained at 113 Broadway. The Mexican corps are at 815 South El Paso street, with Adlt. James Hunter in charge.

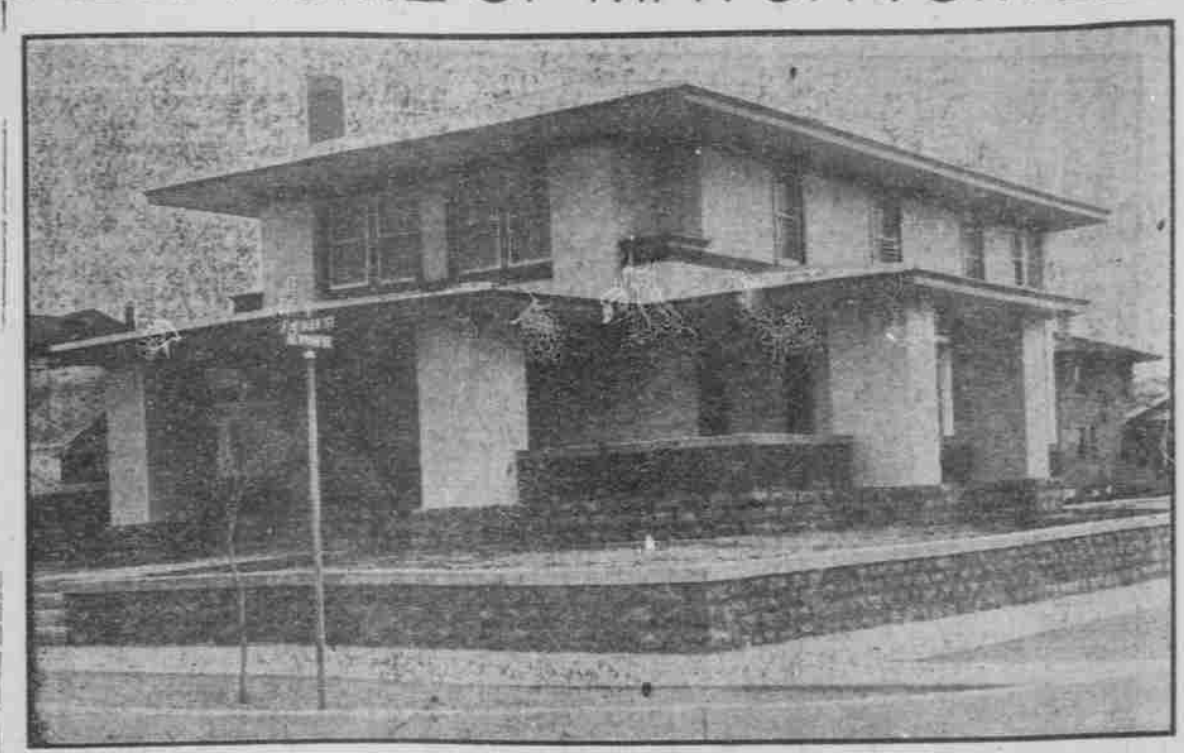
Y. W. C. A. Well Organized.

The Y. W. C. A., which is engaged in work among the young women, is similar to that done by the Y. M. C. A. among the young men of the city. It maintains a large boarding home at 541 West Missouri street. The institution also maintains general office, gymnasium and lunch room on the fourth floor of the Everybody's department store. Mrs. Paul Heermans is president and Miss Gail Lane, general secretary. The Y. W. C. A., of which Mrs. H. A. Lay is president, meets at the Y. W. C. A. building.

Great Packs Of Wolves Attack Russian Village

Petrograd, Russia, Jan. 22.—Large packs of wolves have appeared in the neighborhood of the right bank of the Volga, and have done a great deal of damage among the horses and other domestic animals. There have been cases in which the wolves carried off watch dogs from the farmyards in the full light of day, and the peasants have been compelled to beat off the attacks with clubs. It is believed that the wolves have been scared from the forests of Livonia and Poland by the incessant artillery fire.

NEW HOME OF MAYOR TOM LEA



Residence recently completed on the corner of Newman and East Nevada streets, for mayor Tom Lea and family.

WITH 40 MILES OF PAVED STREETS EL PASO STARTS NEW PAVING ERA

Extensive Paving Work Is Inaugurated by the City in the Closing Days of 1915 Which Will Continue Throughout This Year; Paving Work of Piedras Street One of New Undertakings; Sewerage to Be Extended.

UNDER the Lea administration plan of paving, which eliminates the city as the collector of paving assessments from property owners and has done away with the rebating paving plan, El Paso has entered upon the greatest era of street improvement in its history.

The rotating paving fund plan, inaugurated by a previous administration, was excellent and resulted in a vast amount of paving. The estimates were paid to the paving contractors by the city, which in turn collected from the property owner. The chief difficulty was that if collections were poor, the city became involved in a lawsuit and had to be halted. Shortly after mayor Tom Lea took office he succeeded in securing the consent of the paving contractor to assume the responsibility of collecting from property owners affected by the work, and now all work in the city is being done under this plan. The city, of course, pays for the paving of street intersections, but it is stated that there is little danger of the city's funds being exhausted and that the amount of paving done rests entirely with the property owner.

The flood of petitions for paving work that have come in during the past several months indicate that the people of the city generally are favorable to street improvements. The attitude of the people is further shown by the fact that the vast majority of unimproved sections left by the paving contractors because certain property owners refused to sign for paving. This fact has been a source of gratification to the present administration and has been the cause of favorable comment by mayor Lea and other members of the administration.

More Than 40 Miles of Paving.

At the beginning of 1915 there were 35.80 miles of paving in the city. At the end of the year this had been increased by 2.21 miles, making a total amount of paving 38.01 miles. The improvements of the year represented a cost of \$157,827.46. The work included the paving of Texas street, from Cotton avenue to Alameda avenue, a distance of 3200 feet, at a cost of \$42,564.96; Grant avenue, between Cotton avenue and Magoffin avenue, at a cost of \$17,827.46; Cincinnati street, and side streets in Kern, between Nevada and Florence street, between Missouri and Hill street, at a cost of \$19,228.87; Frowbridge street, between Stevens avenue and Madison street, at a cost of \$15,330.34; California street, between Mesa avenue and Los Angeles street, at a cost of \$2,595.25; East Nevada street, between St. Vrain and Wright streets, costing \$18,332; Newman street, between Nevada and Nevada streets, at a cost of \$7,188.78; Randolph street, between West Boulevard and Prospect street, at a cost of \$4,784.45; and other paving work was done in other parts of the city. The work included the paving of a one-mile section of the city engineer's office.

There is a large amount of paving work that has been authorized but has not been started. Some of this work has been contracted for and is now under way, while on some has merely been authorized and estimates are now being made.

Piedras Paving Under Way.

The paving of Piedras street has been contracted for and work now is in progress. This street is to be paved from Magoffin avenue to Bliss street, a distance of 12 blocks. The estimated cost of this work is \$82,072. The completion of this work will make a connection between the districts north of the tracks and Texas street and Magoffin avenue, and will result in the diversion of much traffic from Montana and other paved streets north of the G. H. & S. A. tracks.

Work is just starting on the paving of Prospect avenue, from Upon avenue to West Boulevard, a distance of six blocks. Work is also under way on Blacker street, which is to be paved from Mesa avenue to Ange street, a distance of eight blocks.

Paving Authorized.

Work already authorized and to be done during the present year include the following streets:

West Nevada street, between Oregon and Los Angeles streets—three blocks, or 1200 feet.

East Rio Grande street, between Magnolia and Piedras streets—five blocks, or 2500 feet.

Stevens avenue, between the G. H. & S. A. reservation and Franklin canal—four blocks, or 1400 feet.

Federal street, between Kentucky and Louisiana avenues—two blocks, or 900 feet.

South Kansas street, between First and Eighth streets—seven blocks, or 2700 feet.

East Rio Grande street, between Newman street and Cotton avenue—six blocks, or 2400 feet.

East Boulevard, between Cotton avenue and Piedras street—10 blocks, or 4000 feet.

Oregon street, between Arizona and Cliff streets—four blocks, or 1400 feet.

South St. Vrain street, between San Antonio and Fourth streets—five blocks, or 1800 feet.

Chihuahua street, between Improvement District No. 1 and Second street—two blocks, or 700 feet.

South Campbell street, between Improvement District No. 1 and Fourth street—three and one-half blocks, or 1150 feet.

Erle street, between Cotton avenue and Ohio street—one block, or 400 feet.

Cotton avenue, between Montana and

Erle streets—eight blocks, or 2800 feet.

High street, between Oregon and Ochoa streets—six blocks, or 2400 feet.

Cliff street, between El Paso and Stanton streets—three blocks, or 1200 feet.

Additional Work to Cost \$275,000.

The new work undertaken during the present year and already authorized to be done approximates eight miles, and will represent an outlay of between \$200,000 and \$275,000. As hardly a council meeting passes that one or more petitions are not presented, it is probable that the work already underway and authorized represents less than half of the paving that will be done during the present year. In all probability the year 1916 will be the greatest paving period the city has ever seen.

Most of the new work provides for a 20-foot driveway and 20-foot parking on each side. California, paved in 1915, has a 20-foot driveway, as well as Montana street, Circle, east Nevada and Prospect streets that will have a 20-foot driveway as West Nevada, East Rio Grande, Erle and High. Federal street will have a 40-foot drive way with 15-foot parking, while Piedras, Myrtle, South Kansas, Newman, St. Campbell, South St. Vrain, Chihuahua and Oregon will be paved the full width of 50 feet.

All the paving now being done under the supervision of the city is of bituminous material.

Sidewalk Construction.

Sidewalk building has kept pace with the paving, as is evidenced by the fact that during the year 1915 8.58 miles of sidewalks and a similar amount of curbing were laid down. The close of the year there were 77.58 miles of sidewalks, which is a larger, in proportion to population, than that of any other city in Texas. Except in some sections of the outlying additions, El Paso has a complete system of sidewalks. The city has authority to order sidewalk construction within the city limits and this has resulted in a large amount of sidewalk building.

Suburban Work Not Included.

The figures given above do not include sidewalk building in sections outside the city limits. There has been during the past year much work of this character done in the outlying sections, for in nearly every instance where a house has been built cement sidewalks and curbs have been put in.

Now 10 Miles of Sewer.

Nearly 10 miles of sewers were laid in the city limits during the year at a cost of \$2,595.25. There were 18.45 miles, bringing the total of sewers to 31.25 miles.

The largest work undertaken during the year was the laying of nearly one-half mile of deep sewer laterals to connect with the large sewer on Second street. These laterals, one later which extends to Texas street and the other to San Antonio street, penetrate the heart of the business district and have done away with the necessity of maintaining pumps to handle the sewage from the large buildings. The longer of the two laterals is 1365 feet and extends from Texas street, along Stanton street. The other lateral, which extends from Second street through the alley between Oregon and El Paso streets, to San Antonio street, is 1021 feet in length. Prior to the laying of the laterals the city maintained a pumping plant to handle the sewage from the Mills and First National bank buildings. These the sewer construction work was largely extensions to new residence sections and were mostly of eight-inch pipe. During the first 11 months of the year 1915 a total of \$4,412.57 was spent in sewer construction. The December figures are not yet available.

More Deep Sewer Work.

Work will start shortly on the construction of about 700 feet of 12-inch deep sewer. Connection will be made with the sewer at Texas and Stanton streets, and the line will be carried north to Mills street and west on that street to Mesa avenue. This line will serve the new Commercial National bank building, the Lanier building on Stanton and the new Roberts-Ranier building, to be erected this year at the corner of Mills and Stanton streets.

To Build Storm Sewers.

The present year will undoubtedly see the beginning of the construction of a system of storm sewers to take care of the flood waters that gather in the lower levels following heavy rain storms. The city engineer's department is now at work running lines and making estimates, and while nothing definite has been settled as to probable routes, it is likely that there will be one storm sewer extending through Government Hill and emptying into the river. This sewer, if constructed, will take care of the flood waters that come down from the higher levels.

Another storm sewer is contemplated for East El Paso to take care of the water that comes down from Manhattan Heights. Highland Park and other higher sections. Still another is projected to take care of the Newman street wash and waters rushing down from the Golden Hill district. It is planned also to put one or two sewers down Seventh street to the river to take care of the standing water in the district south of the tracks. These improvements will represent a large outlay, but the probable cost is not yet

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